

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Advisory Action mailed April 17, 2006 ("Advisory Action") and the Final Office Action mailed March 3, 2006 ("Final Office Action"). Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. Claims 1-36 are pending and stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Applicant's Summary of Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy and opportunity to conduct the telephone interview on June 27, 2006. In the telephone interview, U.S. Patent No. 6,292,559 to Gaikwad et al. ("*Gaikwad*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,205,220 to Jacobsen et al. ("*Jacobsen*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,647,067 to Hjelm et al. ("*Hjelm*"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,511,119 to Lechleider ("*Lechleider*") were discussed. Applicants proposed amendments to the independent claims. The Examiner indicated that such amendments may possibly overcome the prior art rejections. Applicants stated that a Request for Continued Examination containing the claim amendments would be filed.

Section 112 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." (Final Office Action, page 2.) The Examiner states, "In each of the independent claims, the term 'a first line communicating a first signal' is indefinite, as the line does not communicate the signal, but the end users do." (Final Office Action, page 2.)

Applicants respectfully disagree. Webster's II New College Dictionary defines the word "communicate" as "to transmit information." *Webster's II New College Dictionary* 227 (2001). In the field of telecommunications, lines transmit information in signals. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Section 103(a) Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4, 6, 10-16, 20-23, 25, 29-32, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,887,032 to Cioffi ("*Cioffi*") in light of assertions made by the Examiner. The Examiner rejects Claims 5, 7-9, 17-19, 24, 26-28, and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cioffi* and in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,236 to Fujimura ("*Fujimura*"). For reasons discussed previously, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 13, 20, 30, and 36 and all claims that depend on these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$790.00 to satisfy the request for continued examination fee of 37 C.F.R. 1.117(e) for a large entity to Deposit Account 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Applicants hereby request a one (1) month Extension of Time and have attached hereto a separate Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for one (1) month from June 3, 2006 to July 3, 2006, along with authorization to charge the Extension of Time fee of \$120.00 to Deposit Account 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Although Applicant believes no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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